

□ 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8 879-2867
□ 7141 Sherbrooke Street West Montreal, Quebec H4B 1R6 482-0320

May 18, 1976

BISHOP'S HONOURS CONCORDIA'S ORSON WHEELER

Orson Wheeler, a fine arts lecturer whose association with Concordia's Sir George Williams campus goes back to the thirties, will receive an honorary Doctor of Civil Laws degree at Bishop's University spring convocation in Lennoxville, May 29. Professor Wheeler graduated from Bishop's in 1927.

The Montreal sculptor is well known for his scale models of some of the world's best known buildings. Some of his works in miniature include the historic French cathedral at Chartres, Salisbury Cathedral in England and closer to home, Toronto's new city hall and Christ Church Cathedral. Although he has visited many of the landmarks he recreates in his models, he does much of his work from books and photographs.

The models, fashioned out of plasticine and wood, are used to illustrate his architectural history lectures.

After graduating, professor Wheeler attended Royal Canadian Academy classes in Montreal. Later, he went to New York where he studied at the Cooper Union Art School, the Beaux Arts School of Design and the National Academy of Design.

Wheeler's works have been exhibited in England at London's Tate Gallery, at the 1939 New York World's Fair and the American National Academy in New York, and in other centers.

He was elected a full member of the Royal Canadian Academy in 1954 after holding associate membership for several years. Professor Wheeler was a Centennial Medal winner in 1967.

His bronze bust of Sir Lyman Duff, the former Canadian Supreme Court Justice, now sits in the Supreme Court Building in Ottawa. Sir Edward Beatty, the Canadian Pacific Railway magnate, was the subject of another work, which the CPR commissioned.

Mr. Wheeler is represented in many university, corporate and private collections across Canada, as well as in the permanent collection of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Professor Wheeler was born in 1902 in Barnston, in the Eastern Townships, only a few miles from Lennoxville where he is to be honoured.

In an interview not long ago he described how he came to be interested in art: "It's impossible to live in this kind of area without being influenced in mind and spirit by its beauty and charm.

"One day my brother brought home a box of water colours and brushes which he never opened."

Orson Wheeler did and his career was begun.

Joel McCormick
University Editor